

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

EGSA-882

9 March 1953

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Chief, CIS

Operational / CACUS

Otto HANTEL

Ref: FRAN 2188

Attached hereto are reports from CIC's dossier on HANTEL. CIC has no recent information on Subject. The dossier also contains a Military Government Fragebogen which Subject filled out in November 1945. It has a sample of Subject's signature. If you wish a copy of this old document, we shall request CIC to photostat it for you.

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(Note: Undated and Unclassified)

REPORT

Otto HANTEL was known under the false name of Otto HENSCHER (HENTSCHEL) in Sachrang (Upper Bavaria); in his false identity card he stated his occupation to be merchant. His wife too had a false identity card, issued in the name of HANTEL, nee SCHWITZER. His wife was employed by the Gestapo in Innsbruck; she is very much afraid to be delivered to France, because she worked in Elsass-Lothringen.

Until 1938 HANTEL worked in Berlin in the department "Communists". From 1938 to 1942 he worked in Innsbruck in the department "Catholic Church and Jews". In 1942 he worked in Berlin in the section "Gegner Nachrichtendienst Ausland" (Counter-Intelligence Section).

Otto HANTEL was born 30 December 1899. He was Secretary of the Criminal Police and SS-member. His wife was employed by the Gestapo. Both are interned at this camp.

Otto REHR No. 3247, is perhaps able to give closer information.

Johann DE HAAN

No. 6-2309

Bar 28, Abt. II

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Headquarters XI Corps
Office of the A G of S, G-2
Civilian Internment Camp No. 6

23 November 1945

Subject: Internee HANTEL, Otto, No. 6-3247
To: Hq, United States Forces, European Theatre
(attn: Chief, OIR, G-2 Section)

1. On 16 November 1945 Otto HANTEL was interrogated by this unit, operating under G-2, Hq Third US Army.

2. Personal Data:

- a. Permanent Address: Betsdorf, Haus No. 174
- b. Nationality: German d. Occupation: Kriminal Obersekretar
- c. Date and Place of Birth: 30 December 1899 at Kladow
- e. Religion: Gottgläubig f. Marital Status: Married (Wife Irene nee SCHNITZER)

3. Background:

- a. Education: 1906-14, Grammar School, Sakrow
- b. Employment: 1931-35 Kripo, Berlin, Oberassistent; 1935-45 Gestapo Berlin, Innsbruck, Luxemburg, Koblenz, Kriminal Obersekretar.
- c. Military Service: 1917-18 97th Inf. Regt, 31st Inf. Div, Muskettier
- d. Politics prior to 1933: None
- e. Politics since 1933: NSDAP
- f. Membership in NSDAP: 1942 no. about 8,000,000
- g. Membership in NSDAP formations: 1943-45 Allgemeine SS, Untersturmführer; 1936-38 NSFK, Paying member
- h. Membership in affiliated organisations: None

4. Details of Arrest:

HANTEL, charged with being in automatic arrest category, was arrested by OIC Detachment at Sachrang on 12 June 1945 and was received at Internment Camp No. 6 on 16 June 1945.

5. Findings:

Subject worked for the KREPO Berlin from 1931 until 1935. There he specialized in theft cases in clothing stores. In 1935 he was assigned to the Gestapo Berlin. Until 1938 he worked in Abt. II, interrogating Germans in regard to illegal Communist movements. From 1938 to 1943, HANTEL worked in Innsbruck, Austria again performing his duties in covering illegal Communist movements. He also worked in Koblenz in the same line of work. In 1943 he was made Kriminal Obersekretar in the Gestapo with nominal SS rank of Untersturmführer. In April 1945, when Americans were approaching Innsbruck, Oberregierungsrat Dr. Max Medwed, Chief of the Gestapo Innsbruck, gave HANTEL and his wife the choice of a last ditch stand or assuming false personalities. HANTEL and his wife chose the latter solution. Kennkarten were made and that explains the alias. HANTEL's wife is also interned at this camp. Subject's rank falls within the AA category.

6. Recommendations:

It is recommended that Subject remain interned pending instructions for disposition of his category (Kriminal Obersekretar in the Gestapo) by directives from higher headquarters.

For the Commanding Officer
Norman G. Kleikamp
1st Lt. Infantry

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